

His book on "Growth" contains chapters on cell division and cell growth, on the growth of the body as a whole, and of the various tissues such as skin, blood, bone, connective tissue, fat tissue, blood vessels, secreting glands, muscles, and nervous tissue; also a survey of the characteristics and abnormalities of tumour growth. There is a supplementary chapter by the editor, J. S. Haldane. Although we recognize to the full the sympathetic and difficult work that his friend has undertaken in editing and summarizing this work, we cannot but regret with the editor that Lorrain Smith did not live to formulate these conclusions himself. There is much in the book as it appears that is reminiscent and characteristic of the man.

To his friends and pupils it has a personal interest "that will fire their imagination and win their hearts." It will bring back to their minds much of his philosophy, many of his original and brilliant ideas not unmixed with the doubts and difficulties that were ever before him in the interpretation of pathological findings. We get a stimulating insight not only into the rather mystic thought of the author, but also into his philosophy of life. He shows, for instance, by numerous examples, how the differentiation of the cell for a special function may go hand in hand with a suppression of its power of growth, and when the cell reaches this specialized stage in its evolution its allotted span is run. Thus we get a philosopher's view of the inner meaning of "growth" and life itself.

If from the study of this book some young investigators, in Ulster or elsewhere, are stimulated to inquire further into any of the protean problems of growth, it will have served the purpose that its author mainly desired.

We might fitly write his epitaph thus:

JAMES LORRAIN SMITH, 1862—1931,
Philosopher, Physiologist, Pathologist, and Friend.

—T. H.

ACIDOSIS AND ALKALOSIS. By Stanley Graham, M.D., F.R.F.P.S., and Noah Morris, M.D., B.Sc., D.P.H., F.R.F.P.S. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone, 1933. pp. 203 + xii. Price 7s. 6d. net.

THIS volume presents in a compact form the recent advances which have been made in the field of applied biochemistry. The first chapters outline the essential biochemical foundations on which the diagnosis and treatment of acidosis and alkalosis are based. The remaining chapters deal with the clinical conditions in which disturbance of acid-base balance occurs. The treatment of diabetes, nephritis, gastro-enteritis, cyclic vomiting, salicylate poisoning, the acidosis associated with anæsthesia, tetany, and pyloric stenosis is discussed. The ketogenic-antiketogenic values of foods and the essential steps in making up solutions for intravenous injections are appended. These will prove of great value when the treatment of an acidosis has to be undertaken. The book is published in a very readable fashion. It is of great practical value, and should enable the physician to base his treatment on sound scientific principles.

—T. B. H. H.

DISEASES OF THE SKIN. By R. M. B. McKenna, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox, 1933. pp. 506 + xiv; figs. 149; coloured plates 45. Price 25s. net.

DR. McKENNA is to be congratulated on the third revised edition of a textbook which has already proved its worth. It is a very practical and easily read book containing many excellent illustrations and coloured plates. All the common diseases are dealt with in a very practical manner, the differential diagnosis being of particular value. Brief mention is also made of many of the rarer diseases met with in this country and the tropics. In chapter II, on examination and treatment, the general principles are very clearly set out, and the nine simple rules regarding general principles of treatment are clear, concise, and of great value. Many useful prescriptions are given in full. It is a book of immense value not only to the student of dermatology, but to the busy general practitioner.

—I. McC.